



50 Harry S Truman Parkway
Annapolis, MD 21401
Phone: 410-841-5772
Email: rmc@mda.state.md.us

Website: www.rural.state.md.us

For Immediate Release: October 1, 2007

For more information, contact
RMC Communications Manager Vanessa Orlando,
Phone: 410-841-5774 Email: orlandva@mda.state.md.us

2007 Rural Impact Award Winners Announced

(October 2, 2007) - Six rural Maryland leaders and organizations will be recognized for their outstanding efforts to improve the quality of life in rural communities during the Annual Rural Impact Awards Luncheon, which will be held during the 10th Annual Maryland Rural Summit on Thursday, October 18, on Solomons Island in Calvert County.

Award winners are nominated by their colleagues from across the state and selected by a panel of reviewers representing the Rural Maryland Council, the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Office of Rural Health, the Tri-County Council of Southern Maryland, the Upper Shore Regional Council, and the Maryland Rural Health Association.

Maryland Comptroller Peter Franchot will address the Rural Impact Awards luncheon and help distribute awards to the following recipients:

- *The Outstanding Rural Volunteer Award is given for leadership, dedication, and noteworthy volunteer achievement beyond the call of one's professional duties. **The 2007 Outstanding Rural Volunteer is Miles Circo, a full-time volunteer with Habitat for Humanity of Talbot County on the Eastern Shore.*** Mr. Circo retired in 2003 as vice president and chief technical officer at Circuit City Stores, Inc. Since 2004, he has given upwards of 40 hours a week to Habitat as volunteer construction supervisor, responsible for the oversight of building logistics, coordination of volunteers and permits, and working with subcontractors and vendors. As a licensed engineer, he takes personal responsibility for the installation of the electrical systems in all Habitat homes. He also spends a great deal of time searching for land for future Habitat homes. In addition, Mr. Circo was instrumental in building a regional partnership with Dorchester County and negotiating a nonprofit alliance with a for-profit developer which has resulted in the first multi-income development on the Eastern Shore. He also serves on the Easton Affordable Housing Board and is a member of the Talbot County Workforce Housing Coalition. "Through his foresight and open-minded vision, he encouraged our Board to look beyond what is comfortable and be pioneers for what can be," said Susan Devlin, executive director of the Talbot affiliate of Habitat for Humanity. Ms. Devlin nominated Mr. Circo for this award.
- *The Outstanding Rural Economic Development Award is presented to a program, project, person or organization that successfully attracts, retains or creates jobs in at least one rural county or leads to future sustainable economic development. **The 2007 Outstanding Rural Economic Development Award Recipient is Charlie Ross, president and CEO of the Garrett County Chamber of Commerce in Western Maryland.*** During the last five years at the helm, the Chamber has increased its

members from 450 to 741, tourism numbers have increased an average of 10 percent a year, and the county's unemployment rate is now the lowest in its history. Mr. Ross actively worked to build relationships among the Chamber, businesses, governments, and towns, and he has been instrumental in developing additional events and attractions and enhancing existing ones to increase traffic to Garrett County. Under his leadership, workforce housing and workforce development and education are now priorities for the Garrett County business community. A native of Friendsville, Mr. Ross holds a BA from the Johns Hopkins University and JD from the University of Maryland School of Law. He worked in Baltimore and Annapolis for many years after having been assistant state's attorney in Garrett County with his own firm, providing legal, lobbying, polling/market survey work and strategic problem solving services to many clients from politicians to corporations to state agencies. Mr. Ross was nominated for this award by Duane Yoder, president of Garrett County Community Action Committee, inc.

- *The Outstanding Rural Community Development Awards is given to a program, project or organization that substantially improves the quality of life in at least one rural community. **The 2007 recipient of the Outstanding Rural Community Development Award is the Kent Family Center in Kent County on the Eastern Shore.*** The Center, through collaboration with agency partners, provides programs focusing on eight core services: children's programming, parent education, self sufficiency, service coordination, peer support, wellness education, in-home parent education, and outreach, collaboration and resources. Primary consideration is given to at-risk families and first time parents. It has been integral part of providing services to underserved families while facilitating the necessity for community partnership and revitalization of historic sections of Chestertown. The Center was nominated for this award by John Dillman, executive director of the Upper Shore Regional Council.
- *The Outstanding Rural Health Achievement Award is given for leadership and noteworthy initiative in the development of community-oriented rural health care delivery. **This year's recipient of the Outstanding Rural Health Achievement Award is Rodney Glotfelty, Garrett County health officer for the last nine years.*** He supervises a staff of 155 people and a budget of \$11 million for the delivery of direct and preventative health care programs. The department is now pioneering the use of live video conferencing between home health recipients and health department nurses in an effort to maximize the potential for providing state-of-the-art home health services in a timely manner. During 2001, Mr. Glotfelty oversaw the development and construction of a new and consolidated county health department which brought six different services from across the county together in one building. The Garrett Health Department now leads the state in seeing children with dental needs that are eligible for medical assistance and plays an integral part in a system of early prevention services for children. Under Mr. Glotfelty's leadership, Garrett County is now second in the state in children who enter grade school ready to learn. Mr. Glotfelty currently serves in many leadership positions, including president of the Maryland Association of County Health Officers and serves on the Governor's Interagency Commission on Agriculture. Prior to his appointment as health office, he served as Garrett County's Director of Solid Waste.
- *The Outstanding Rural Health Program Award is given for promoting and providing effective community-oriented rural health care delivery and excels in service to rural people, directly or indirectly. **The Outstanding Rural Health Program is St. Mary's County Health Department's Medical Transportation Program,*** which helps remove barriers to health care by providing safety-net, non-emergency medical transportation to the county's Medical Assistance recipients who have no other means of transportation to their medical appointments. Services are provided within the tri-county region as well as to the Washington and Baltimore areas, linking residents to areas outside the county for specialized are services. The county provides several modes of transportation under this program. For instance, the program will provide bus tokens to those who live on a public

bus route or gas vouchers to those who have a friend or family member who can take them but need help with fuel costs. For those in the more remote rural areas, the program uses its own vehicles and drivers. To make the program efficient and successful, the county has entered into numerous partnerships with the county's public bus system, nearby nursing facilities, surrounding counties, local courts, among others. Many county residents would not receive needed medical care without this service.

- *The Outstanding Rural Health Practitioner Award is given for providing direct service and exhibiting outstanding leadership in bringing and/or improving health services to rural populations. **The 2007 Outstanding Rural Health Practitioner is Dr. Matthew A. Hahn, medical director of the Tri-State Community Health Center, a federally qualified community health center in Hancock.*** Dr. Hahn has a large geriatric and chronic disease population and actively provides care to home-bound and hospice patients in his community. He has also created a number of clinic-based and community wellness projects, including Health Olympics – an annual program in which patients agree to make a daily prescribed change in exercise and caloric intake for a set period of time; and Walk Across Maryland in 30 Minutes, which takes advantage of the town of Hancock's being Maryland's narrowest point, 1.5 miles from north to south. He was also among a group of entrepreneurs who helped create an electronic medical records system geared toward family physicians. His office has also become a popular ambulatory care rotation for students from Georgetown University, where he has become known for his weekly jogging lectures, in which he lectures his students on a broad range of primary care topics while running. Dr. Hahn was nominated for this award by the Maryland Academy of Family Physicians which named him Maryland Family Doctor of the Year in 2006.

The tenth annual Maryland Rural Summit runs from October 17-19, 2007. All those registered for the Summit attend the Awards Luncheon. Tickets for those who wish to attend only the luncheon are \$25. For more information, see: **www.rural.state.md.us**. Or call: 410-841-5772.